

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

Budget Communications Memo



School Funding

Background

With Governor Doyle's leadership, we have been able to return to two-thirds state funding and we must continue to honor our pledge to citizens, communities and schools. We must continue this bipartisan commitment of two-thirds funding as long as revenue caps continue.

Budget Request

	FY 08	FY 09
General Equalization Aids	\$149,947,800	\$272,109,600
Fund the general equalization aids share of meeting approximately two-thirds of estimated "partial school revenues." The amounts reflect annual increases of 3.2 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively, over the biennium.		
The department's request related to general equalization aids reflects other funding requests contained elsewhere in this biennial. To the extent that other requests are denied and/or modified, the amount of general equalization aids needed to fund approximately two-thirds of "partial school revenues" would also change.		
Milwaukee/Racine Charter School Program (MRCSP) Re-estimate	\$5,153,500	\$10,199,500
A re-estimate of the MRCSP, as required by current law.		
Special Education Categorical Aid Increase	\$25,000,000	\$50,000,000
Provide funding to increase the state's payment of special education costs.		
Low Revenue Ceiling Adjustment	\$0	\$0
Increase the per pupil low revenue ceiling amount by \$300 annually, to \$8,700 in FY08 and to \$9,000 in FY09, to continue to provide the state's lowest spending districts with the opportunity to narrow the disparity with the highest spending districts. This proposal would allow approximately 100 school districts to increase their revenues beyond the annual allowable per pupil adjustment each year without going to referenda.		
Fully-fund Open Enrollment Transportation Reimbursement	\$323,500	\$401,800
An estimate of funds needed to fully-fund the open enrollment transportation reimbursement appropriation for participating pupils eligible for FRL.		

Investing in our Future